

# HOW TO MAKE YOUR COLLEGE DREAM COME TRUE

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# HIGH SCHOOL

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- Everything you do in high school matters.
  - GPA
  - Involvement
  - Including any disciplinary troubles
- All of these things will contribute to the strength of your application. The more involved and better GPA, the stronger your application will be,

# RESEARCH COLLEGES YOU'RE INTERESTED IN

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- Research in state and out of state colleges.
- Research their demographics and statistics. Important statistics to look at are graduation rates and financial aid cost. You want to make sure you will attend a school that helps your success, you should be wary of low graduation rate schools. You also should keep statistics in financial aid in mind. You don't want to go to an average school and leave with \$100,000 of debt.
- If you need to take out loans, make sure they are reasonable in cost and in terms. Loans are not bad, but they can drown you if you are not informed.

# SAT/ACT

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- These standardized tests are important and vary depending on states. Texas primarily uses SAT.
- There is free online studying resources, search for them on google.

# APPLICATION

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- Your college application will consist of essays, letters of recommendation, and transcripts.
- Be sure to double and triple check that every component makes it safely to the school you are attending.
- Common applications are an option in some states – this is a one time application that gets sent to all the schools you are interested in applying to.
- It costs money to submit applications, but you can always ask the schools for fee waivers depending on your household income.

# FAFSA/TAFSA AND FINANCIAL AID

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- Learn everything you can about financial aid. Apply to FAFSA or TAFSA as soon as you can after submitting your applications. Priority deadlines vary across states.
- Learn about grants and scholarships offered in the school you are attending and outside of the school you are attending.
- Be intentional about internal scholarships from the school, often times you can receive a lot more scholarship money from internal scholarships than external scholarships.
- Be informed so you can make informed financial decisions. Financial decisions may follow you for many years after college, please be informed.

# CHECK LIST

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- Do well in high school
- Research schools
- Submit applications
- Submit TAFSA/FAFSA
- Work on scholarship essays (non stop throughout your senior year), grants, loans etc.
- GET READY FOR COLLEGE!